

The Role of Sex?

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, November 8th, 2015

Insights from 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

What the Text Says?

1. God _____ and he created _____.

(Genesis 1:28, 31, Genesis 2:24-25)

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2. A means of _____

(1 Corinthians 7:1-3, Song of Solomon 6:4-7:13)

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3. A ministry to _____

(1 Corinthians 7:3-5, Proverbs 5:15-23, Hebrews 13:4)

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4. Singleness and Marriage _____

(1 Corinthians 7:7-9, Ephesians 5:22-33)

What the Text Doesn't Say?

1. Get married...

2. Our desires...

3. Singleness is...

4. All marriages...

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to week 9 of our 11 week Small Group Session! We are getting together to pray for one another and study God's Word. Our last meeting this quarter will be the week of November 22nd just before Thanksgiving.

Getting Started:

1. How people learn about sex varies greatly. Growing up, which two things below were most influential in how you learned about sex?

Parents

Friends

TV

Movies

Books

School

Internet

Other _____

If you were asked to summarize what you learned about sex from these influences, what would you say?

2. Sex is a major influencer on our culture but often not talked about in our homes. Growing up in your house how was the topic of sex treated? How did this influence you as you grew into adulthood?

To help us start our Bible study/discussion together, looking back at your notes from Sunday, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, encouraged you or raised a question as we heard a message from 1 Corinthians 7:1-9.

Digging Deeper:

1. Because we use the word “love” to mean so many things (we say we love a person and we love pizza), there is the real possibility for confusion about what we mean when we use it. In the language the Old Testament was originally written in (Hebrew), there are at least three different words translated by our one English word “love.” Read the following verses to see how they are used in the Song of Songs.

Song of Songs 2:10 – “**raya**” – Friendship – love for a friend or companion.

Song of Songs 8:6-7 – “**ahava**” – Commitment – making a choice to love.

Song of Songs 1:2 – “**dod**” – Sexual passion – the sexual element of a relationship.

God’s design is for marriage to be the perfect place for the expression of all three of these loves. Can you think of any consequences in people’s personal lives or in our society in general from separating sexual passion from the friendship and commitment loves?

Looking back on what Dave shared this weekend, what could you share with a friend who came to you and said, “What’s the big deal about sex outside of marriage? I don’t see anything wrong with it as long as no one gets hurt.”

2. Good communication is one ingredient in a healthy sexual relationship with a spouse. It is also an important part of all other relationships. What principles about communication do you learn from each of the following passages?

Proverbs 15:23

James 1:19

Ephesians 4:29

James 3:3-12

Take a minute and think about your pattern of communication with a spouse, family member or friend. What would it look like for you to apply any of the principles you jotted down above in that relationship?

3. In 1 Corinthians 7:5 Paul writes, “*Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*” Paul makes it clear that prayer is an important part of marriage. What is the current role of prayer in your life? How can prayer be a powerful tool within marriage?

If you are married, how does this verse challenge or encourage you in your relationship with your spouse?

4. Dave said this past weekend that, “A healthy sexual relationship is a symptom of a healthy marriage.” If we are to have a healthy sex life in our marriage, then we need to make sure the marriage is healthy. What do these passages teach about having a healthy marriage?

Ephesians 5:22-33

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1 Peter 3:1-7

Was there anything in these passages that particularly challenged or encouraged you? Is there anything you need to change?

Taking it Home:

Looking back at the final questions from this weekend’s teaching and this week’s study, is there a point or statement that is especially important for you to remember this week?

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group.